Demonstration at Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore

1318. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-Hindi demonstrators recently entered the Doordarshan Kendra in Bangalore and disrupted the relay of the popular serial Ramayana; and

(b) what were the demands of the agitators?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Six members of Kannadda Artists and Writers Guild forced their way into the Transmitter Hall of Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore on 31-1-88 and caused a major breakdown during the telecast of 'Ramayana' Programme.

(b) The demands of the demonstrators were for more Kannadda Programmes, Kannadda Feature Films for Kannadda speaking people and also recruitment of Kannadingas to various posts in the Kendra.

Employment of children in Hazardous activities

1319. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite all the laws regulating employment of children, children of tender age continue to work in match and firework factories and in mines, in callous disregard of the safety norms; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and directions issued by the Central Government to prevent this rampant exploitation of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) It is a fact that inspite of the laws prohibiting employment of children in certain employments, cases of children continuing to work in such employments have been detected.

(b) The State Governments have been addressed to stringently enforce the legal provisions relating to prohibition of child labour.

Utilisation of Central fund by Madhya Pradesh

1320. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Funds provided to the Housing Board of Madhya Pradesh have not been fully utilised and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what were the funds allotted and how much have been already utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Government does not provide any financial assistance direct to the Housing Boards. Central financial assistance is given to the State Governments/U.T. Admns. as 'block loans' and 'block grants' without being tied to any particular scheme for head of development.

However, the HUDCO, the premier financing institution at the central level, has sanctioned 360 schemes in Madhya Pradesh with a project cost of Rs. 26067 lakhs and loan assistance of Rs. 17276 lakhs which envisages construction of 91822 dwelling units. 111104 basic sanitation units and development of 78714 plots.

Introduction of cheap construction material

1321. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new construction material is likely to be introduced, which promises to cut down the consumption of concrete by 30 per cent to 60 per cent and reduces the construction cost;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether it would be durable; and

(c) to what extent the construction cost is likely to be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The various research institute in the country have developed a number of new materials and improved technology for re-reduction in cost and consumption of scarce building materials like cement and steel. Concrete is generally used for foundation/flooring and RCC roofiing, beam, lintels etc. The major consumption of concrete in construction is the items of roofing and flooring slabs. The consumption of concrete for RCC may be reduced to the tune of 10 to 12 per cent by using precast/pre-fabricated building components such as precast channel unit, precast RC plank and joists for roofiing and flooring, callular concrete roofiing units, reinforced brick panels etc.

The durability and structural soundness of prefabricated components have been established by the research works conducted by the research institutions like Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee. The CBRI is experimenting with fly-ash lime bricks which are expected to result in savings in consumption of concrete by 30 to 60 per cent.

The extent of cost reduction would depend upon the type of constructon technique, type of structure, and the saving in concrete achieved.

Supply of drinking water in Bilaspur division of Madhya Pradesh

1322. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been grave water crisis in Bilaspur dvision of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the aid provided by the Central Government to the State Goernment for providing potable water in the villages of the Bilaspur division;

(c) whether it is a fact that out of 8137 villages of the division, 5119 are problem villages and if so, the villages where drinking water arrangements have been made so far and what is the number of remaining villages where the problem is still there; and

(d) the funds so far utilised by the State Government received from the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Drinking water scarcity was felt during summer months in some problem villages in Bilaspur Division of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) grant-in-aid of Rs. 32.81 crores was released to the State Government in in 1987-88 for the supply of safe driinkng water in rural areas in the state. Out of this Rs. 229.75 lakhs was allocated by the State Government for supply of safe drinking water in rural areas in Bilaspur Division. Against their allocation of Rs. 27.73 crores for 1988-89, a sum of Rs. 13.876 crores has already been released. Out of this amount Rs. 111 lakhs has been allocated by the State Government for Bilaspur Division.

(c) Out of 8137 villages of the Division, 8050 were problem villages (PVs) 7835 PVs have already been covered leaving a balance of 215 PVs which are yet to be covered with safe drinking water facilities.

(d) The utilisation of funds by the State Governmnt is as under:—

Utilisation of funds (Rs. in crores)

	State as a whole		Bilaspur Division	
	1987—88	1988—89*	1987—88	1988—89*
ARWSP . . .	34.55	7.25	2.30	0.04
MNP. . . .	46.39	6.40	2.00	0.55

*Upto June, 1988